

Sessions. Of these returns the following analysis may be given.

Of the Presbyteries, six, viz.: Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, St. John, Miramichi, Pictou, Victoria and Richmond, answer the first question, Is a Union of the negotiating churches desirable? in the affirmative, and three, Halifax, Tatamagouche, and Lunenburg and Yarmouth either give no decision or answer in the negative.

To the second question, Are you willing, &c., four Presbyteries answer in the affirmative simpliciter, viz.: St. John, Halifax, Miramichi, and Victoria and Richmond, and four, Cape Breton, P. E. Island, Lunenburg and Yarmouth, and Tatamagouche answer in the affirmative with qualification, and one, Pictou, gives no decision.

Of the Sessions, thirty-four answer the first question affirmatively, and nine answer negatively, viz.: of the twelve Sessions in Halifax Presbytery, six affirmatively, and six negatively. Of the seven Sessions in P. E. I. Presbytery, all answer affirmatively. In St. John Presbytery eleven, *i. e.*, all that have reported, answer affirmatively. In Pictou Presbytery seven sessions have reported, four in the affirmative, and three in the negative. In Presbytery of Truro only one session, Lower Londonderry, has reported, and that in the affirmative. In the Presbytery of Tatamagouche, four have reported, two in the negative and two in the affirmative. From Cape Breton Presbytery no returns from sessions have been received. From the Presbytery of Victoria and Richmond, no returns.

To the second question, "Are you willing that the Union should be carried into effect, on a basis such as is published on Page 10 of these minutes," of the forty-three Sessions, twenty-five give an affirmative answer and eighteen negative, or affirmative with qualification, viz.:—In Halifax Presbytery four affirmative and eight negative. In Prince Edward Island, two affirmative simpliciter, and five affirmative with qualification. In St. John, two affirmative simpliciter, and one with qualification. In Pictou, two affirmative simpliciter and five with qualification. In Tatamagouche, two affirmative and two negative.

It is proper here to note, before parting with these returns of Presbyteries and Sessions that in nearly all, the negative answer hinges upon such amendment of the basis as has been largely if not wholly met by the action of the Joint Committee and the decisions of the General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church and the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland at their recent annual meetings.

In compliance with the summons duly issued, your Committee met in joint Committee at Montreal on the 26th Sept. last, 1871. Of the twelve members representing this Synod eight were then and there present, and the four members absent severally addressed to the Convener satisfactory reasons for their absence.

The proceedings of joint Committee were on this as on former occasions, begun, carried forward, and concluded in the Christian spirit of conciliatory regard to any divergence of opinion which arose on the several subjects introduced and determined. This was specially manifest on the several points which were felt to be objectionable by the minority of this Synod at its meeting in St. John, N. B.

The College question which had in last year's meetings hindered the unanimity and completeness of the action of joint Committee was found still to be the grand hindrance to immediate and unanimous finding. Of the thirteen sederunts held about one half were devoted to this "questio vexata." Nor does this statement fully represent the amount of anxious thought devoted to this subject, as in sub Committee drawn from the churches more immediately interested, frequent and protracted meetings were held. Your Committee felt from what had appeared as the mind of this Synod in the matter of Collegiate Education your representatives were not called to take any active part in its solution, and were placed not as principals in the conflict of opinion, but rather as mediators between contending parties. The subject was approached on all sides, with full consciousness that upon its favourable decision the practicability of Union mainly depended. In Committee and sub-Committee it was considered and re-considered until a conclusion was reached which seemed to satisfy all parties present. The precise condition in which the question stood, when thus brought to a conclusion, will best be ascertained by minute of first Committee. In 1870 the decision was as follows:

"The joint Committee resolve to recommend that the earnest attention of the United Church should be given at the earliest possible moment to secure the maintenance in thorough efficiency of a Presbyterian University, and of such Theological Halls as may be found requisite to provide the necessary facilities for the education of the Ministers of the Church in the various Provinces of British North America."

In 1871 the first finding which was adopted at a full meeting, and most harmoniously, was:

"That the negotiating Churches shall enter into Union with the Theological and